

Endeavoring to Support:

- "The Messianic Times" - Publisher
- Israel Legal Defense
- Jewish/Gentile Fellowship
- International Conferences
- Forum for Debate
- Emigration to Israel
- Dispute Mediation
- International Affiliations
- Monthly Essays
- Theological Papers

Early Foundations:

Our Alliance was originally established in England in 1925. During the Nazi era, some of our European affiliates were decimated. The remaining groups worked together to fund the escape of many fellow Jews.

This life saving work was officially recognized by Great Britain. Our earliest leaders were honored i.e. Sir Lawrence Levinson was knighted by royal decree and Harcourt Samuel was given the "Order of the British Empire" (OBE).

In 1976, the IMJA, in conjunction with two other founding charities established the Ebenezer Home in Haifa, Israel. This institution continues today and the IMJA annually helps fund its operation. It is home to 30 individuals, without regard to original nationality, race or religion. Food, clothing, medical care and transportation are provided. About a hundred people can be seen at some of its social events and there is always a waiting list to become a resident.

We are His property, bought with a price. In the spirit of holiness, we are comforted against doubt, worry and confusion. We can speak directly to the mountains of adversity and they will move (even if not immediately, or the way we expect).

I Corinthians 1:27 informs us that

...God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. And God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.

The small nation of Israel will confound the world. And like Israel, as frail vessels, we are nevertheless overcomers. In this way, our Lord is glorified. The apostle Paul tells us *... for when I am weak, then I am strong* (II Corinthians 12:10). It is then the Lord undertakes on our behalf. As in ancient times, Israel's God will fight, when no flesh could glory.

There are some lessons to be learned about the seeming fragility of the Jewish nation and individuals concerning Providence, promises, and faithfulness. Whenever doubt or insecurity creep in, our remedy is to re-read "The Whole Megillah."

Yours in Messiah,

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Executive Director

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ESSAY # 159

THE WHOLE MEGILLAH

The above phrase has made its way into modern-day idiom. Outside of the Jewish people, few know its origin. A *megillah* is a lengthy scroll telling the story of the Book of Esther from the Bible. It is read in its entirety on the 14th day of Adar, according to the Hebrew lunar calendar, which falls this year on Tuesday, March 10th.

The recitation of how the Jews of Shushan were saved from extinction can seem quite long, since all ten chapters are read aloud during the public worship service. In the planned genocide, *Pur*, (equivalent to lots, or dice) were cast in the presence of the story's villain, Haman, who plotted against the Jews (Esther 3:9). The plural form of *Pur* is *Purim*, which is the name of the Jewish holiday.

In commemoration of the Divine intervention that saved Babylonian and Persian Jewry, the Holy Scriptures call for two days to be celebrated throughout all the generations of the Jewish people (Esther 9:27 -28). Observant Jews continue to remember God's faithfulness to His promise of perpetual survival (Jeremiah 35:36).

Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for alight by night ... if those ordinances depart from me, says the Lord, then the seed of Israel shall cease from being a nation forever.

This is a story of persecution, when Jews were in exile from the Promised Land and had been carried off into Babylonian/Persian slavery. In the story Haman, a prideful and prominent rich man, hated the Jewish people, because they wouldn't bow down to him. They always seemed to march to the beat of a different drummer.

What We Do

Israel Support:

- Home for the elderly
- Humanitarian aid of goods from local warehouses
- Unwed mothers and widows
- Civil Rights Defense for Messianic Jews in Israel
- Jerusalem Headquarters utilized by Ethiopian Jewish Believers

Among the nations:

- Fostering the growth of New Testament Messianic Congregations (now numbering 750, including 120 in Israel).
- Small Ministries—Poor Countries: In many countries fund raising is not a practical possibility, especially for Jewish work. These works are volunteer efforts where even small amounts go a long way. It is our fervent wish to do what we can to facilitate Jews and Gentiles worshipping our Lord together.

Witness:

- Jewish outreach and evangelism
- New Testament Jewish roots
- Jews & Gentiles in joint worship

National Alliances

- Argentina
- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Holland
- Israel
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Russia
- South Africa
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United States
- Uruguay

Because of wounded pride and resulting super sensitivity, Haman's hatred sought to murder an entire population. He was second in power only to King Ahasuerus (Artaxerxes Longimanus, 463 B.C.E. and as distinguished from Artaxerxes Smerdis, 538 B.C.E) and it seems he had every means to impose a holocaust. When Mordechai, a Jew, refused to bow down to Haman, it enraged him to the point where he wanted to execute all the Jewish people in Shushan.

In the third year of the king's reign, he called a royal feast and he summoned his wife, Queen Vashti. When she wouldn't obey, he held a national beauty contest and chose Esther to become his new bride, not knowing she was Jewish.

When Haman began to implement his evil plan to kill the Jews, Mordechai, the hero of the story, spoke to his niece Esther. He suggested that it was the guiding hand of Providence, that had put her in a position to influence events.

For if you altogether hold your peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance rise up to the Jews from another place; but you and your father's house shall be destroyed; and who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this? (Esther 4:14).

The young queen was being called upon to even risk her life on behalf of the Jewish people. Her brave response was:

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to that law, and if I perish, I perish (Esther 4:16).

Haman's plot is exposed by Esther. He is hung on the gallows that he had been built for Mordechai. Esther survives as a heroine of faith and courage, as she upheld God's intention of Jewish survival.

These events really happened and bear important historical validity. Although the tale seems to be applicable only to the Jewish people, an analogy could be drawn to compare the history unfolding in our generation.

In the form of a parable, the king represents God. Queen Vashti could signify an unsubmitive church or religion rebelling against the authority of the monarch. Esther could be likened to the beautiful and true courageous Body of Bible believers, who interceded for her people. Mordechai is a type of a kinsman redeemer, who provided his people a way to salvation.

Indeed, it would seem that those who are born-again are being called upon as the bride of the king to stand up and identify with the Jews of our day. Esther was willing to die for this cause. Today, believers everywhere are being recruited to stand by Israel. This symbolism suggests that those in the Body, who are willing to intercede as Esther did, will be honored throughout the generations (forever).

World events seem to be coming to a head. Concerning geopolitics in the Middle East:

...in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it (Zechariah 12:3).

Darker days seem to be coming – not only for the Land of Israel – but for “spiritual Israel,” the believers. How shall we manage, when confronted by this growing torrent? “The Whole Megillah” is available to us to bring to remembrance the Almighty's faithfulness to His Word and His promises.

Is the hand of the Lord waxed short? (Numbers 11:23). We know that *no weapon formed against us shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17)*. In fact, we can stand on many promises, when life seems long and hard. That's why Biblical promises are there, to help battle against discouragement. Do we think our Lord only cares about nations and large numbers of people?

Though we might consider ourselves insignificant, He cares. When we face despair and all seems bleak, we can know that rescue is His intention. After all, we are recreated beings made in His image. We are impregnated with His Spirit and therefore have:

love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness and faith (Galatians 5:22).

You may modestly say you don't possess these qualities, but we believers have all of them, when we focus on Him and are therefore in His Spirit.

Foreign Translations

The Fig Tree Blossoms is a primary book about our Movement translated into Hebrew, Russian and now Spanish. It is a 30 year old classic and explains why accepting a Jewish Messiah, foretold by Jewish Prophets in a Jewish Land is a very Jewish thing to do. Distributions of the Holy Scriptures are available in 17 languages:

- Yiddish
- English
- Armenian
- Bulgarian
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Russian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Hebrew
- Ukranian

